



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण

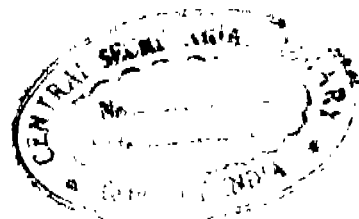
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 2

PART II—Section 2

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY



सं 9] नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, जुलाई 12, 1996 / फाल्गुन 8, 1917
No. 9] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1996 / PHALGUNA 8, 1917

इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

RAJYA SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 12th July, 1996 :—

BILL No. LX OF 1995

A Bill to prohibit the children from begging and to provide for the deterrent punishment for forcing children to beg either by their parents or by organised gangs or by any children institution and for the rehabilitation of those hapless children who have to beg and subsist on begging by the state by establishing Rehabilitation Centres, special schools and vocational training centres for such child beggars and for matters connected therewith.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Child Beggars (Prohibition and Rehabilitation) Act, 1995.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

Definition.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

(a) “appropriate Government” means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in other cases, the Central Government;

(b) “begging” means soliciting or receiving alms such as money, food, clothes etc. as charity by any child from others for his own subsistence or for others; at notified places;

(c) "notified places" means a road-crossing, railway station, religious place, tourist spot, market place or such other place as may be notified by the appropriate Government in this behalf from time to time;

(d) "child" means a boy or a girl who has not completed fifteen years of age;

(e) "parent" include father, mother or any relative of a child or guardian or any person having custody of the child for the time being;

(f) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(g) "Rehabilitation Centre" means a centre established under section 7 for lodging child beggars.

Prohibition of begging by children.

3. Begging by any child in any manner is hereby prohibited.

Prohibition of forcing children for begging.

4. No person including parent shall force any child to beg either for him or for the subsistence of the child so forced to beg.

Prohibition of displaying infant child for begging.

5. No person shall carry or display any infant child for begging or soliciting alms at any place.

Local Police to take charge of children found begging.

6. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, it shall be the duty of the local Police to take immediate charge of a child found begging in its territorial jurisdiction and hand him over to the nearest Rehabilitation Centre.

(2) The local Police in carrying out the purposes of sub-section (1) shall follow such procedure as may be prescribed.

Establishment of Rehabilitation Centres.

7. (1) The appropriate Government shall, for the purposes of this Act, establish such number of Rehabilitation Centres at such conspicuous places as it may deem necessary.

(2) The Rehabilitation Centre shall admit every child beggar brought to it by the local Police and shall provide the following facilities to every child inmate of the Centre:—

(i) Free boarding and lodging;

(ii) Bedding, clothes, shoes and other accessories for daily use free of cost;

(iii) Such other facilities as may be prescribed from time to time.

(3) Each Rehabilitation Centre established under this Act shall have such officers and employees and shall function in such manner as may be prescribed.

Establishment of schools and vocational training centres.

8. (1) The appropriate Government shall, in order to provide quality education and vocational training to the child beggars lodged in Rehabilitation Centres, establish such number of schools and vocational training centres as it may deem necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every school and vocational training centre established under this Act shall provide such facilities to the children covered under this Act as may be prescribed.

Punishment.

9. (1) Any person who contravenes the provisions of Section 4 shall be punishable with imprisonment which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to ten years and also with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of Section 5 shall be punishable with imprisonment which shall not be less than one year but which may extend to three years.

Punishment for maiming children for begging.

10. Notwithstanding anything in the Indian Penal Code, 1860, any person who commits the offence of maiming any child for pushing him into begging shall be punished with death.

11. The appropriate Government may, from time to time, by order either retrospectively or prospectively, exempt the operation of all or any specific provision of this Act on the members of any specific race, sect or tribe to which it may consider impossible or inexpedient to apply such provisions in view of their customs, ritual etc.

Power to
exempt.

12. The provisions of this Act and of any rules and orders made thereunder shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any other instrument having effect by virtue of any law other than this Act, but save as aforesaid the provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

Overriding
effect.

13. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order or direction, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, remove the difficulty.

Power to
remove
difficulties.

14. The Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Power to make
rules.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the metropolitans and cities it is a common sight at the road crossings, near the religious places, bus stops, railway stations, markets where children beg for alms. At the road crossings when the traffic halts at the traffic signals small children almost naked or having rags on their tender bodies can be seen begging. Sometimes they get some money from the kind hearted ones but generally they are shoed away. Outside the religious places like temples, churches, Gurudwaras, mosque etc. children can be seen sitting alongwith adult beggars for alms. At the places of tourist interest beggar children chase the tourists particularly the foreign tourists which gives an ugly picture of the country to the foreign tourists. At many places, infant children are displayed to elicit and arouse the compassion of public so that more alms are collected.

In many cases the children are forced into begging. They are forced to beg by their parents due to poverty in the family or by organised gangs of underworld who do not even hesitate in maiming the innocent children. In order to arouse the kindness of public, the helpless children are cruelly made handicapped and forced to beg. Apart from forcing such children to beg, such *Dadas* and gangs train them in pickpocketing, stealing, drug trafficking and other crimes for their own vested interests. Some orphanages too do not remain behind in forcing the children to beg for them. Thus a good number of children are turned to begging. In some cases when a child runs away from home due to abject poverty or due to cruelty of step mother or father or other relatives, he starts begging for his subsistence but such cases are negligible.

Ours is a welfare State and children are the future of our great country, it is the solemn duty of the State to come to rescue of such hapless children who are made beggars in their childhood when he is supposed to play and enjoy his childhood. It is the birth right of a child to get good education, nutritious meals, clothes and other amenities of good life so that he becomes a good citizen when he grows. When the family of a child is unable to provide all these things to him and he has to beg instead, it is the duty of the State to come forward and take care of such child. This Bill aims at rehabilitating the child beggars and an attempt has been made to make them good citizens with the active role of the State.

Hence this Bill.

SAROJ KHAPARDE

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 7 of the Bill provides for the establishment of Rehabilitation Centres for the boarding lodging etc. free of cost for the child beggars for their reformation and rehabilitation. Clause 8 provides for the establishment of schools and vocational training centres for the child beggars. The Bill, if enacted and brought into force, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a sum of rupees one hundred crores may involve as recurring expenditure per annum.

A sum of rupees two hundred crores may also involve as non-recurring expenditure.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 14 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The rules will relate to matters of details only.

The delegation of legislative power is of normal character.

II

BILL NO. LXI OF 1995

A Bill to provide for the compulsory exchange of soiled and damaged currency notes by all the Banking Companies and their branches including rural and co-operative banks without any deductions thereon on being produced by citizens before such banking companies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Soiled And Damaged Currency Notes (Compulsory Exchange By Banks) Act, 1995.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

(a) "Currency notes" means currency or promisory notes of various denominations issued by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

10 of 1949

(c) Words and expressions used but not defined in this Act and defined in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them in the said Act.

3. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, every banking company and its branches operating in any part of the country shall exchange the soiled and damaged currency notes having a lifespan of one or more years immediately on being produced by any citizen to such banking company or its branch, as the case may be.

Banking companies and their branches to exchange soiled and damaged currency notes.

(2) For exchanging the currency notes having a life span of less than a year the banking companies shall follow such procedure as may be prescribed.

2 of 1934.

4. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 or any other law for the time being in force, the Reserve Bank of India shall reimburse the entire value of exchanged soiled and damaged currency notes to the banking company in such manner as may be prescribed.

Reserve Bank to reimburse the Banking Companies the entire value of exchanged soiled currency notes with them.

5. The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Power to make rules.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Currency notes of various denominations issued by the Reserve Bank of India get spoiled after a year or so, as they pass through innumerable hands. The notes become soiled and are damaged when stretched even slightly. These soiled currency notes become a headache for the common man, as they are not accepted by most of the traders and agencies. Even the post offices and Banks do not accept these soiled and damaged currency notes. The citizens have no option but to go to the middlemen who charge a heavy cut on such soiled currency notes and in the process the citizens are penalised without any fault on their part. Of course the Reserve Bank and some selected public sector banks are authorised to exchange such soiled notes but the citizens of far-flung areas and the villages and small towns can not avail these facilities. Even in these authorised banks, because of the connivance of bank employees and touts, various objections are raised to force the citizens to go to the touts and the vicious circle goes on without a check. This problem of the citizens can be removed if it is made mandatory for all the banks and their branches to compulsorily exchange the soiled currency notes which are produced to them by the citizens.

Hence this Bill.

SAROJ KHAPARDE

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 5 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The rules will relate to matters of details only.

The delegation of legislative power is of normal character.

III

BILL NO. VII OF 1995

A Bill to provide for a compulsory weekly holiday for the housewives from doing the domestic chores to enable them to take rest and enjoy the day according to their pleasure and for making it obligatory for other members of the family to do the domestic chores on that particular day and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title and extent.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Housewives (Compulsory Weekly Holiday from Domestic Chores) Act, 1996.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “domestic chores” include the work done in a house such as cleaning, cooking, dusting, washing and such other activities;

(b) “family members” include the husband, in-laws, sons, daughters and other close relatives of a housewife living in the family;

(c) “housewife” means a woman, with or without children, whose occupation is looking after her family by doing the domestic chores.

3. Notwithstanding any custom, convention, ritual or tradition, it shall be the duty of the family members particularly of the head of the family to ask every housewife to select a particular day of a week as a holiday from all domestic chores so as to enable her to take rest and enjoy the day according to her pleasure.

Compulsory weekly holiday to be provided to every housewife from domestic chores.

4. On a day so chosen as holiday by the housewife, it shall be the duty of other family members to do all the domestic chores of that day and complete it the same day and provide all the facilities to the housewife so as to enable her to enjoy the holiday.

Family members to do the domestic chores on a day chosen as holiday by a housewife.

5. Any family member who contravenes the provisions of section 3 or 4 or both shall be liable to fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

Penalty.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In our society most of the housewives including the working ones in the offices and establishments have to perform household chores right from the early morning till the family goes to sleep in the night. Most of them prepare the breakfast, lunch and dinner for the family, get the school going children ready for their school, help their husbands and other working members of the family in getting them ready for going to work, clean the house and do the washing job too apart from attending other works like looking after the ailing members, doing shopping for household needs etc. The working housewives have also to get themselves ready apart from doing these functions and thereafter have to perform their official duties during the day time. This becomes a routine in their lives and they perform these functions throughout the week after week without taking rest for a day unless they fall ill. Some lucky ones get some help from their family members or engage maids for some household works but most of them particularly those belonging to the middle class and economically backward families have to face the brunt single handedly.

After all housewives are also human beings. They also need rest atleast for a day every week so that they could enjoy a day according to their pleasure. They can be provided a holiday every week in the same manner in which employers give holiday to their employees. The option to choose a particular day as holiday can be given to the housewife and on that day it should be the duty of the rest of the family to do the domestic work and help her in enjoying a day every week. How far this scheme will work is not known but let us do a beginning.

Hence this Bill.

SAROJ KHAPARDE

IV

BILL No. LXIX OF 1995

A Bill to provide for inclusion of certain tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 1995.

Amendment of
the Constitu-
tion (Scheduled
Tribes) Order,
1950.

2. In the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, in Part XIV—Tamil Nadu, in item 18, the following shall be inserted at the end, namely:—

"Kuruma, Kurumban, Kurumba, Kurumbar".

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The tribal community "Kurumans" is listed as Scheduled Tribe in the Constitution order. There are identical tribal community in various other names like Kurumba, Kurumban, Kuruma etc. living in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. The Revenue officials of these states were issuing Community Certificates to the persons belonging to these communities till now since verification of old records relating to year 1880 and earlier years reveals that these people were termed as Kurumans under Scheduled Tribes in view of their Social, Economical and Cultural backwardness.

A few days back some people represented to the Revenue authorities against treating Kurumba, Kurumbar, Kurumban as Kurumans listed in Scheduled Tribes Order 1950. On the basis of this unauthentic information, the Revenue Authorities stopped issuing them the Community Certificates. Later on, Tamil Nadu Government issued orders directing Revenue Authorities to treat these people as Scheduled Tribes. But Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, opined that such an order was violative of the established Convention, as such an Order can be issued only after an amendment in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order.

Therefore, to give these people justice and in view of their economic, social and cultural backwardness, it is proposed in the Bill that these tribes may also be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

Hence this Bill.

E. BALANANDAN

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to include Kuruma, Kurumban, Kurumba and Kurumbar in the State of Tamil Nadu in the list of Scheduled Tribes of that State. This shall involve additional recurring and non-recurring expenditure for the benefits to be provided to the persons belonging to these communities under the various existing schemes. It is not possible to estimate at this stage the expenditure likely to be involved on this account. However, the expenditure, whether recurring or non-recurring, will be met out of the budgetary grants of the Ministry of Welfare.

2. The Bill, when enacted, will not involve any other recurring or non-recurring expenditure.

V

BILL NO. VI OF 1996

A Bill further to amend the Foreigners Act, 1946.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Foreigners (Amendment) Act, 1996.

Short title and
commence-
ment.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In section 3 of the Foreigners Act, 1946, in sub-section (2), for clause (g), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

Amendment of
section 3 of Act
31 of 1946.

"(g) shall be arrested and detained or confined by the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be;"

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Large number of refugees are housed in the bordering States. States have no power to effectively control the foreigners. They are placed and being kept in the special camps only. Mere detention or keeping in special camps will not give power to the State Government to effectively control them. Hence for effective control, power to arrest has to be given to the State Government also.

Hence this Bill.

R. MARGABANDU

VI

BILL No. II OF 1996

A Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1996.

Short title and
commence-
ment.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. To article 155 of the Constitution, the following provisos shall be added at the end, namely:—

Amendment of
article 155.

“Provided that the appointment of the Governor shall be made in consultation with the Chief Minister of the State concerned”;

Provided further that the Governor of the State may be recalled if the Chief Minister expresses displeasure over the functions of the Governor;

Provided also that the act of the Governor shall be subjected to judicial scrutiny.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Governor is the executive head of the democratically elected State Government. State Government is expected to enact welfare legislations. If the Governor is appointed against the wish of the State Government and the Governor acts against the interest of the State Government, the welfare legislation is likely to be defeated. If the cordial atmosphere does not prevail on the displeasure of the State Chief Minister, the President should recall the Governor. Any act done by the Governor against the pleasure of the State Government must be subjected to judicial scrutiny. State Government should be allowed to function in a cordial atmosphere to implement the welfare legislations to the satisfaction of the electorates and public at large.

Hence this Bill.

R. MARGABANDU

VII

BILL NO. III OF 1996*A Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1996.
(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.
2. Article 356 of the Constitution shall be omitted.

Short title and
commence-
ment.

Omission of
article 356.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India is a federal set up of the Central and the State Governments. One party can come to power at the Centre but a different and diametrically opposite party to Centre may come to power at any State. The Central Government with which the said State Government cannot co-exist may like to take revenge with the State Government through the Governor of the State, an appointee of the Central Government, by invoking article 356 and dissolving the State assembly. Unlimited power is vested with Central Government to wield a threat against the said State Government.

This amendment seeks to empower democratic rights over the elected State Government.

R. MARGABANDU

VIII

BILL NO. XII OF 1996

A Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1996.

Short title.

2 of 1974.

2. (1) In section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),—

Amendment of section 125.

(i) in sub-section (1),—

(a) after the words “if any person having sufficient means neglects or refuses” the following words shall be inserted, namely:—

“or due to drinking or drug addiction beyond his means fails”;

(b) for the words beginning from “a Magistrate” and ending with “time to time direct” the following words shall be substituted, namely:—

“a Magistrate of the first class may, upon proof of such neglect, addiction or refusal, order such person to make a monthly allowance for the maintenance of his wife, or such child, father or mother, at such monthly rate not exceeding Rs. 5,000/- (rupees five thousand) or such other amount as may be considered equivalent to this sum as per cost of living index with 1995 as the base year, in the whole, as such Magistrate thinks fit, and to pay the same to such person as the Magistrate may from time to time direct himself and his dependents at a reasonable level of living consistent with his position in society.”.

(ii) in the Explanation to sub-section (1), after clause (b), the following clause shall be added at the end, namely:—

“(c) A person shall be considered as addicted to drinking or otherwise addicted to other drugs, beyond his means, if he is addicted to such an extent that he is likely to be left with means which are inadequate for maintenance.”.

Amendment of
section 198.

3. In section 198 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1) for the words “except upon a complaint made by some person aggrieved by the offence”, the following words shall be substituted, namely:—

“except upon a complaint made by the person aggrieved by the offence or by his or her father, mother, brother, sister or by the father’s or mother’s brother or sister, or by the National Commission for Women or a State Commission for Women or with the leave of the Court or a non- Government organisation including a Panchayat or by any other person related to her by blood, marriage or adoption.”.

Amendment of
Section 198A.

4. In section 198A of the principal Act, for the words beginning with “upon a complaint” and ending with “blood, marriage or adoption,” the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“upon a complaint made by the person aggrieved by the offence or by her father, mother, brother or sister or by her father’s or mother’s brother or sister or by the National Commission for Women or a State Commission for Women or with the leave of the Court or a non-Government Organisation including a Panchayat or by any other person related to her by blood, marriage or adoption.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Bill seeks to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973—

(i) to protect the wife, dependent children and parents against the vagaries of destitution in case a man is addicted to drinks and drugs to such an extent that his means fall too short to maintain them properly;

(ii) to raise the ceiling limit for maintenance as provided under *Section 125* of the Code to a reasonable level consistent with the rise in the cost of living and diminution of the purchasing power of the rupee so as to link it with the cost of living index; and

(iii) to protect victims of offences under Chapter XX and XX A of IPC, whose victims are more often than not only women and girls against inadequacy and lacunae in procedural law only on grounds that the complaint is not made by the victim herself or her blood relations, who for obvious social reasons avoid going to Court and suffer silently. The women victims continue to suffer due to constraints provided in Sections 198 and 198-A of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Hence this Bill.

VEENA VERMA

IX

BILL NO. X OF 1996

A Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1996.

Amendment of
section 330.

2. In article 330 of the Constitution, —

(i) in the provision for the figure “1971” the figure “1991” shall be substituted;

(ii) after the existing proviso the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

“Provided further that thirty three percent of total number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes under this article shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes as the case may be.”.

Insertion of
new article
330A.

3. After article 330 of the Constitution the following article shall be inserted, namely:—

Reservation of
seats for
women in the
House of the
people.

“330A. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, not less than thirty-three percent (including the seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats in the House of the People shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies.”

To article 332 of the Constitution the following proviso shall be inserted at the end, namely:—

Amendment of section 332.

“Provided that thirty three percent of total number of seats reserved under this article shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes as the case may be.”.

5. After article 332 of the Constitution, the following article shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of new article 332A.

“332A. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, not less than thirty-three per-cent (including the seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assemblies of the States shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies.”.

Reservation of seats for women in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS & REASONS

Even after 45 years of the adoption of the Indian Constitution, the status of Indian women is far from equality. Despite all emphasis on bringing about equality of status and of opportunity in the preamble of the Constitution and under articles 14 and 16 granted as fundamental rights, women continue to suffer from discrimination and even from ignominy.

In spite of the numerous reform movements and active, though small, participation of women in the Freedom Movement, women continue to play only a second fiddle to men in the male dominated society of India. The political and social status of women is determined by the degree of equality and freedom enjoyed by women in the shaping and sharing of political power and in the value given by the society to their role.

Despite all protestations, assertions, assurances to give women adequate representation in the Parliament at the Centre and the Assemblies in the States, the percentage representation of women in Lok Sabha has never touched double figure, being 8.1% in 8th Lok Sabha, during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's regime. The lowest being only 3.4% during the Janta Party regime in 1977—80, i.e. Sixth Lok Sabha.

The highest percentage representation of women in the Rajya Sabha was 11.8% in 1980—82 and 11.4% in 1986—88. While a first step has been taken to give adequate representation to women at the various levels in the Panchayat Raj System under the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution, similar steps have yet to be taken to give the women their due representation in the Parliament and the State Legislatures. While the women constitute about 50% of the country's population, it would be justified to reserve at least 33% seats/constituencies in the legislatures for women on rotation basis.

Hence this Bill.

VEENA VERMA

V.S. RAMA DEVI,
Secretary-General.